

**Staff Report**

**June 10, 2023**

Prepared by:

Executive Director Toshiko Hasegawa

Project Manager K’gnausa Yodkerepauprai

Project Coordinator Brenda O’Brien

June Public Board Meeting: **Virtual**

Improving the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans by examining issues, advancing advocacy, and ensuring access to government.

**Staff Report**

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Staff report to the Commission covering activities, progress, and updates from March 11 to June 9, 2023.

1. **STAFF AND COMMISSIONER ACTIVITY**

**Commissioner Activity:**

Commissioners submitted activity reports for the time period of February 26, 2023 to May 26, 2023.

Total events reported = 96; Activity Report response rate = 81% (10/11 respondents). Details of Commissioner Activity can be found in Appendix I. *(Outstanding reports for this period: Commissioner Faitlia (who is on leave).*

The Commission made a call for applications to join the Commission on March 16, with a deadline to apply of April 30. The announcement was circulated online via CAPAA’s website, newsletter and social media. The nominations committee convened to review 27 applications and conduct 11 interviews. Seven names were delivered to the Governor’s Office – three recommendations and three alternates – all of whom are outside of the Puget Sound area. The Governor’s office is currently reviewing our recommendations and will make appointments for terms effective July 1.

Commissioner Ekkarath Sisavatdy of King County will be re-appointed for a third term and Commissioner Ping Ping will be re-appointed for a second term effectively July 1, 2023. Commissioners Toka Valu and Julio Diaz opted not to pursue re-appointment. The Commission would like to thank them for three years of service to CAPAA and the ANHPI communities of Washington State.

Commissioner Carrie Huie-Pascua was appointed to represent CAPAA upon the DSHS Language Equity Division’s Language Access Work Group. This 6-month work group will recommend options for the most effective ways the state can ensure that highly qualified interpreters are trained and certified to work effectively, particularly in medical settings. The work group will convene for a total of 6 meetings, each of which lasts 1.5 hours.

1. **FINANCE**

CAPAA received everything it asked for, plus funds to conduct two educational opportunity gap studies. The official summary of CAPAA’s budget allocation can be found in Appendix II. Highlights include:

* $125k in FY 24 and $125k in FY 25 to conduct an analysis to close the educational opportunity gap for Asian American students. A report on the analysis will need to be completed by June 30, 2025.
* $125k in FY 24 and $125k in FY 25 to conduct an analysis to close the educational opportunity gap for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students. A report on the analysis will need to be completed by June 30, 2025.
* (That is a total of $250k per year, expiring in 2025.)
* CAPAA’s Civic Engagement/Translator Services DP was funded in the amount of $67k in FY24 and $43k in FY25. This is ongoing funding for $43k/year into the future.
* CAPAA’s lived experience stipend DP was funded in the amount of $43k/year. This is also ongoing funding.
* All staff will receive a roughly 10% general wage increase effective 7/1/23, and another 3% increase on 7/1/24
* Sec. 910 $1,000 Covid-19 booster incentive in FY24 for employees that are up-to-date on their booster
* Sec. 910 $1,000 retention lump sum payment in FY24 for employees employed continuously from 7/1/22 through 6/30/23

SSB 5793 designates state-wide allocation of $250,000 for agencies to apply for and possibly get reimbursement of all or some of the community compensation expenses for FY23. CAPAA submitted a reimbursement request for $6,200 covering the September through March Board meetings. Another request for participation in the June public board meeting as well as nominations committee members participation in candidate interviews will be submitted by June 20th.

**Highlights for our updated spending plan include:**

* Translating the Strategic Plan $2700 (4 languages)
* Translating demography report $2500 (4 languages)
* Website rebuild $15,000 + $300/mo maintenance
* Website translation $12,000 (4 languages)
* Increased our overall travel allocation to $25,000
* Needs Assessment $19,000
* 50 Years of CAPAA $25,000
* Commissioner Stipends and sponsorships

**Future Budget Requests:** CAPAA will return to the legislature with a 2023-2024 supplemental budget request to cover the cost of a necessary website rebuild and webpage services provided by WA Tech.

**Sponsorships:** The Commission will reinstate its sponsorship request page on the website in the new fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2023). Because of the limit on sponsorship-related spend, CAPAA will only grant applications to first-time applicants who meet all criteria.

1. **LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The 2023 legislative regular session concluded April 23 with a new biennial budget, dozens of bills related to housing, health care, and public safety. Governor Inslee called a special session on May 16th, and on the same day the House of Representatives passed a compromise version of [Senate Bill 5536](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5536&Initiative=false&Year=2023). According to the House Democrats, “The bill sets the penalty for possession of controlled substances as a gross misdemeanor with a maximum confinement time of 6 months for the first two convictions and any fine for any conviction is capped at a maximum of $1,000. It also creates a system for pre-trial diversion into treatment. Recognizing the collateral consequences a conviction can have, the bill requires mandatory early conviction vacation if a person can prove that they have completed treatment or have “substantially complied” with the recovery navigator program or similar services for six months. The bill takes strides toward setting up an effective system for outreach, treatment, and recovery while providing avenues for accountability with plenty of offramps into treatment. To address the problem of people using drugs in community spaces, the bill creates the crime of public use. The bill passed with a bipartisan vote of 83-13. The Senate passed the compromise earlier Tuesday with a vote of 43-6.” \* Gov. Inslee signed the bill, which will take effect July 1, 2023.

*\*WA House Democrats: Legislature Passes Special Session Compromise Bill on Drug Possession and Addiction Treatment. 2023, May 16.* [*https://housedemocrats.wa.gov/blog/2023/05/16/legislature-passes-special-session-compromise-bill-on-drug-possession-and-addiction-treatment/*](https://housedemocrats.wa.gov/blog/2023/05/16/legislature-passes-special-session-compromise-bill-on-drug-possession-and-addiction-treatment/)

**CAPAA priority bills:**

* HB 1541 - **Nothing about us without us act.** This bill would require when a legislative workgroup or task force is working on an issue that "directly and tangibly" affects an underrepresented population, the legislature would be required to appoint a representative from that population to the workgroup. Chair Nguyen testified in support. This bill was passed out of the House but died in the Senate Ways & Means Committee.
* SB 5629 - **Concerning hepatitis B and hepatitis C screening and health care services.** This bill would require primary care providers to offer a hepatitis B and a hepatitis C screening test to any patient based on the latest federal screening recommendations to the extent the services are covered under the patient’s health insurance, unless the provider reasonably believes certain conditions are met. Commissioner Huie-Pascua testified in support. The bill was passed out the Senate but died in the House Committee on Health Care and Wellness.
* SB 5000 - **Recognizing contributions of Chinese Americans and Americans of Chinese descent** was signed into law by Governor Inslee. This recognizes January as Chinese American/Americans of Chinese Descent History Month. Public schools are encouraged to designate time for appropriate activities in commemoration of Chinese American/Americans of Chinese Descent History Month and the lives, history, achievements, and contributions of Chinese Americans and Americans of Chinese descent.

**Other bills of note:**

* SB 5082 – **eliminating advisory votes** (a non-binding measure that is very costly to the state and confusing for voters), was signed into law by Gov. Inslee.
* HB 1469 - **protecting people who seek, provide, or facilitate abortion care** in Washington State from out-of-state investigations and prosecutions, and applying to gender-affirming care providers as well as abortion clinics.
* HB 1240 – **strengthening firearm accountability**. The bill bans the sale of more than 50 gun models, including AR-15s, AK-47s and similar style assault rifles. The bill bans their future sale, distribution, manufacture and importation.

1. **CAPAA’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY PLANING**

The Commission will observe 50 years of service to the AA & NHPI communities in Washington State in February 2024. Staff recommends a dual approach for celebrations: 1) a commemorative video on CAPAA’s past, present and future; and 2) an in-person celebration.

* Should the event happen around the anniversary (Fall), or after legislative session concludes
* Should the event happen on a weeknight or weekend

Staff created an awards nomination form, which can be accessed here: [CAPAA 50th Anniversary Award Nominations - Google Forms](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17gGXeXq6v3HPUnJPUlRHc0-97wVDCaMxikSOPrz7DrY/edit)

1. **EQUITY OFFICE**

In February, the Ethnic Commissions learned through a recruitment flyer that the Office of Equity was accepting applications from members of the public to serve upon its Community Advisory Board – a body that the Minority Commissions and BRGs ardently advocated be included upon.

Last month, Dr. Johnson was relieved from State Service (see related news stories below), and Megan Matthews was named interim Director. At a meeting with the Minority Commissions, Interim Director Matthews shared that they plan to move forward with appointments to the Community Advisory Board.

We gave her context to our concerns about the Community Advisory Board and reiterated our insistence that the Ethnic Commissions have membership upon the board. She replied that she hoped to establish a public PEAR team, and mentioned that the amendment to institute the Task Force recommendations failed, and that this Community Advisory Board will move forward as currently planned.

We have met with a representative of the Governor’s Office and asked that their appointment efforts pause until the Office of Equity has listened to our concerns and considered our proposal. The Governor’s Office has received a copy of the bill that would institute task force recommendations and committed to convening an in-person roundtable conversation in the near future.

* [WA Office of Equity director fired by Gov. Inslee's office | king5.com](https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/office-of-equity-director-fired-gov-inslee/281-389a5bed-5ca2-4f42-9107-87bec1a84269)
* [Investigation sheds light on tenure of fired director of WA Equity Office | The Seattle Times](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/investigation-sheds-light-on-tenure-of-fired-director-of-wa-equity-office/)
* [WA’s Office of Equity must focus on dismantling racism, transformation | The Seattle Times](https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/editorials/was-office-of-equity-must-focus-on-dismantling-racism-transformation/#:~:text=Inslee%20on%20Thursday%20named%20Megan%20Matthews%20as%20the,orders%20on%20equity%20and%20help%20agencies%20reduce%20disparities.)

1. **EQUITY TRAINING**

In April 2018, Gov. Jay Inslee issued a memorandum — [Inclusive and Respectful Work Environments](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fofm.wa.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fpublic%2Fshr%2FDiversity%2FSubCommit%2FGovernor_Inslee_Memo_Inclusive_and_Respectful_Work_Environments_%2528002%2529.pdf%23%3A~%3Atext%3DIdentify%2520best%2520practices%2520for%2520incorporating%2520diversity%252C%2520equity%2520and%2Caccountable%2520in%2520building%2520and%2520maintaining%2520a%2520respectful%2520workplace.&data=05%7C01%7CToshiko.Hasegawa%40capaa.wa.gov%7C3c5465f9b9f54ac04bd508db16be67e8%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638128779263307679%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=j3h3SG6BdQ%2BfmyVsIM30%2FyjJ%2BUstlwQD9rrh6gfjQeI%3D&reserved=0) — calling on agencies to take action to create inclusive and respectful workplaces.

In 2022, the governor issued [Executive Order 22-02](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governor.wa.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fexe_order%2F22-02%2520-%2520Equity%2520in%2520State%2520Government%2520%2528tmp%2529.pdf&data=05%7C01%7CToshiko.Hasegawa%40capaa.wa.gov%7C3c5465f9b9f54ac04bd508db16be67e8%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638128779263307679%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2K1k%2FBZjJHjk62Fr1yZ4%2FFsFQDVuI%2FsidAuzLwbMTDw%3D&reserved=0), “Achieving Equity in Washington State Government.” It calls on the State Human Resources division at the Office of Financial Management to issue a directive requiring all executive cabinet agency employees to complete diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) training that aligns with the Office of Equity’s pro-equity anti-racist (PEAR) plan. CAPAA received confirmation that all appointed Commissioners must also take the training.

The Department of Enterprise Services is developing the training, *A Path Toward Equity: Disrupting Structural Racism through Awareness and Belonging*, as requested by State HR and based on direction established by the statewide DEI Training Committee. The purpose is to provide a foundational training for all executive branch state employees. The course aims to develop shared understanding and language around diversity, equity, and inclusion and help employees gain skills necessary for a respectful and inclusive workplace. Please see the [DES webpage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdes.wa.gov%2Fdeitraining&data=05%7C01%7CToshiko.Hasegawa%40capaa.wa.gov%7C3c5465f9b9f54ac04bd508db16be67e8%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638128779263307679%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WhaRMDOScJqT7DJIFTkDROEKIukEuv7gVIeKITYo7MQ%3D&reserved=0) for more details about the training.

The full directive is available online at the [OFM website](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fofm.wa.gov%2Fstate-human-resources%2Fhr-directives&data=05%7C01%7CToshiko.Hasegawa%40capaa.wa.gov%7C3c5465f9b9f54ac04bd508db16be67e8%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638128779263307679%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZgU6CRv01%2FJtP4eeu1ySuDmN6LcLBmU5Lc7TZ93FEYA%3D&reserved=0)**. The required training includes a pre-requisite viewing of the documentary** [***Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America***](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsowa.sumtotal.host%2Frcore%2Fc%2FpillarRedirect%3FisDeepLink%3D1%26relyingParty%3DLM%26url%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fsowa.sumtotal.host%252Flearning%252Fcore%252Factivitydetails%252FViewActivityDetails%253FUserMode%253D0%2526ActivityId%253D1178121%2526ClassUnderStruct%253DFalse%2526CallerUrl%253D%252Flearning%252Flearner%252FHome%252FGoToPortal%253Fkey%253D0%2526SearchCallerURL%253Dhttps%25253A%25252F%25252Fsowa.sumtotal.host%25252Fcore%25252FsearchRedirect%25253FViewType%25253DList%252526SearchText%25253Dwho%2525252520we%2525252520are%252525253A%2525252520a%2525252520chronicle%2525252520of%2525252520racism%2525252520in%2525252520america%252526startRow%25253D0%2526SearchCallerID%253D2&data=05%7C01%7CToshiko.Hasegawa%40capaa.wa.gov%7C3c5465f9b9f54ac04bd508db16be67e8%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638128779263307679%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ov%2Bsgl3gNbVX2nMsoFLd%2FVWtANxCae4wRDq8lBkWEQM%3D&reserved=0)***,* available in the Washington State Learning Center to which you can sign up to watch. This prerequisite must be completed prior to registering for the DEI foundational training modules, expected to be available starting March 2023.**

If you have questions about the training or how to sign up to watch the pre-requisite, please contact staff.

1. **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Webpage:** Commissioner bio updates, bill tracker daily updates

**Newsletter:** CAPAA’s newsletter is sent to an e-mail listserv of 2,906 contacts (+38) from January Staff Report). The newsletter was sent a total of 3 times to the full listserv.

**Facebook:** 2,894 Follows up from2,843 in March (+51). Highest performing post was a ANHPI Heritage Month Proclamation 8,977 reach and 235 reactions.

**Instagram:** 230 Followers (+80). Highest performing post was Executive Director Hasegawa a day in the life video with 28 likes.

1. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

ANHPI Small Biz Resource Roundtable

Monday, June 26, 12:00 – 1:00

Virtual

September Public Board Meeting

Saturday, September 9, 10:00 – 2:00

Everett Community College

2000 Tower Street Everett, WA

November Public Board Meeting

Saturday, November 18, 10:00 – 2:00

Together Center, 16305 NE 87th St. Redmond, WA 98052

**APPENDIX I: Commissioner Activity Reports**





**APPENDIX II: CAPAA 2024-2025 Budget**

